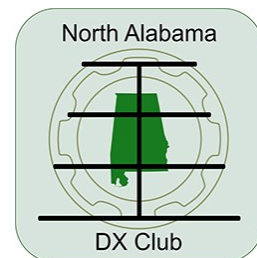


The LongPath



November 2024 — Volume 48 Issue 11

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Contents:

From the President

Is It Shockley or
Schottky?

Phasing Two Receive
Antennas

Introduction to RTTY

Using a Tower to
Raise a Tower

My QRP Experience
in the 2024
CQWW SSB Con-
test

Great DX Podcast

Upcoming DX Con-
tests

DXpeditions in No-
vember 2024

Club Business and
Announcements

NADXC "Club Fact
Sheet"

Contributors:

AC4G

AG4W

K8KI

N4BCD

N4NM

N5DF

NG3K

NN4NT

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From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

The leaves have begun to fall, and cooler weather is quickly upon us. The other day I begun mulching leaves and kept looking at the antenna projects still sitting idle at my QTH without anything being accomplished. I can remember several months ago in Spring advising each of our NADXC members to begin working your projects and other outdoor ham radio related projects. I also advised that before you know it Fall and Winter will quickly approach and if we don't plan our projects back then. Well, time slipped by me, and it looks like I may not complete some of my partially started projects this year. Hopefully, you were able take my advice and complete your ham radio projects.

On Halloween Day, we finally had a 6m opening to Europe, but I was not able to work any stations. I was able to decode several G's; PA's; SV's; SV9; LZ; LA, and a few common EU stations. I am still undecided whether this was a "Sporadic E" or "F-Layer" opening. I believe it was a sporadic opening that was in and closed about as fast as it opened; hence, making me believe it was a "Sporadic E" opening. I am keeping my fingers crossed that W3LPL Propagation Report is accurate as he explained that Late-October until early-

November shall exhibit world-wide, broad area propagation for 6m enthusiasts.

The NADXC Board of Directors has conducted a few meetings this month looking ahead at the rest of this year and next year. At our next business meeting, I hope to hear about the recent club picnic. Our November meeting will also permit us to vote on "NADXC Program of the Year", "NADXC Best Longpath Article of the Year", and "DXer of the Year". We will also have a program by Dr. Barry Johnson titled, "Common Mode Current: What is It? Measure It. Mitigate It". I look forward to seeing every member on November 12 at our next meeting, which will be held at the Museum of Information Explosion (MIE), 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, AL at 6:30 P.M. We will also be on via ZOOM. Please come and help us decide who deserves the plaques we intend to present at our Holiday Dinner in December at Full Moon BBQ on University Drive, Huntsville.



Museum of Information Explosion

Is It Shockley or Schottky?

By John Stensby, N5DF

Both Dr. Shockley and Dr. Schottky made significant contributions to semiconductor physics and devices. It is not uncommon to confuse the two.

Both *Shockley diodes* and *Schottky diodes* exist. The former is a four-layer device, comprised of a *PNPN* structure of alternating *P-type* and *N-type* material layers. Today, it is no longer manufactured (according to Google). The latter has a single metal-semiconductor junction. It is used widely in radio and *RF*-circuit design.

In the literature, the name *Shockley* is used as a handle for a diode model and equation. *Schottky* is the name used for metal-semiconductor junction diodes. Physical *Schottky*

diodes are described by a *Shockley* model/equation. As you might imagine, lots of folks are confused by all of this.

In my October *LongPath* article “A Simple *RF* Power Sensor”, I screwed up. Change *Shockley* to *Schottky* in paragraph 4. However, **all** other occurrences of *Shockley* are correct since each refers to an equation or model, not a physical diode.

Alternative terminology can be used to reduce/eliminate this confusion. In the literature, *Schottky Diodes* are known as *Hot Carrier Diodes*. Sometimes, the moniker *Diode Law* is used instead of *Shockley Equation*.

Phasing Two Receive Antennas

By Steve Werner, AG4W

I continue to look for ways to enhance receive performance on the low bands. A recent project has been to use an MFJ-1026 Noise Canceling Signal Enhancer to phase my two beverages and the 8-vertical receive array. I purchased this



Internals of the MFJ-1026

at the Huntsville Hamfest for \$150. It had been a demo unit for MFJ. It was advertised as working but one of the antenna wires had come loose from the connector. I wonder how many hamfests it had been to. The circuit board had a design date of 2003. This

unit can be used to eliminate noise up to 30 MHz, but I am using it only with my low band antennas. DX Engineering has a more featured model selling for about \$1000.

I have had a good time testing it and learning how to use it most effectively. It has always been interesting to see how many AM stations you can listen to on a single frequency. There are several websites that list AM radio stations by frequency. A recent night at 7:30PM I was able to hear 3 stations very clearly on 1330 and 1500. As an example, I heard one station from the northwest, one from northeast and one from the southwest on 1500. By carefully adjusting the antenna gain and direction using the beverages and vertical array and then slowly adjusting the phase between the two antennas you get amazingly interference free copy. You can also invert the phase

Phasing Two Receive Antennas (continued)

with a switch. I usually can hear 2 stations on many of the frequencies. They recommend using antennas with the same polarization.

I used this capability during the recent CQWW SSB contest on 160 meters. Unfortunately, propagation was very poor on this band. It was a great contest to work 10 meters. I was only able to hear one station from Europe.



AG4W's new MFJ-1026 installed , allowing phasing of signals received from his beverages and vertical array.

Introduction to RTTY

By Rob Suggs, NN4NT

If you are a RTTY user, this article isn't for you. You already know all this. At the DX Club picnic, I said something about working the JARTS RTTY Contest and a couple of folks said, "you know, I've never tried RTTY". If that's your story, read on. I'm not going to try to describe here how to setup your rig to operate RTTY. There are plenty of YouTube videos on that topic and it depends on the rig and software. This is just a brief introduction to give you a flavor for it and encourage you to give it a shot.

RTTY has been around for landline use since 1849 with a circuit between Philadelphia and New York. The US Navy demonstrated radio RTTY to an aircraft in 1922 and the first commercial transoceanic RTTY began in 1932 from San Francisco to Honolulu. I first used it at my college ham station in the late 1970s using an old, noisy teleprinter and a TU (terminal unit) that used analog techniques to filter and decode. It is much easier now as a soundcard in your PC or your radio does all the modulation/demodulation work of the TU, and you get the messages on your screen rather than that old yellow paper. But I do miss the smell of the oil in the printer and the rhythm of the

chunka-chunka.

What is RTTY used for today? Contesting and DXing, but very little ragchewing anymore. PSK-31 is way better for that. No, FT8 hasn't totally killed it for DXing and FT4 hasn't replaced it for contesting. But DXpeditioners I've heard talk are doing less RTTY and lots more FT8. The RTTY contests seem pretty busy so I suspect it will keep going for a long while.

RTTY uses a 5-bit code developed in 1874 by Emile Baudot (compare to the 7- or 8-bit ASCII code). The symbol rate is typically 45 baud although there are faster settings available in some software. All the letters, numbers and a few punctuation marks can't be represented in 5 bits so there is a "shift" code to switch between letters and numbers. If that shift character gets clobbered by QRM you'll get some funky looking print, but it does correct itself eventually. The modulation is frequency shift keying between 2 tones 170 Hz apart (see figure). The "space" tone is typically tuned to 2295 Hz and the "mark" tone is at 2125 Hz. Note that you probably want to set your rig to LSB mode although you can reverse the tones in software if you want to use USB. You can

Introduction to RTTY (continued)

also shift the frequencies to something lower if you don't like those high tones, but you may have to move your rig's filters if you do that.

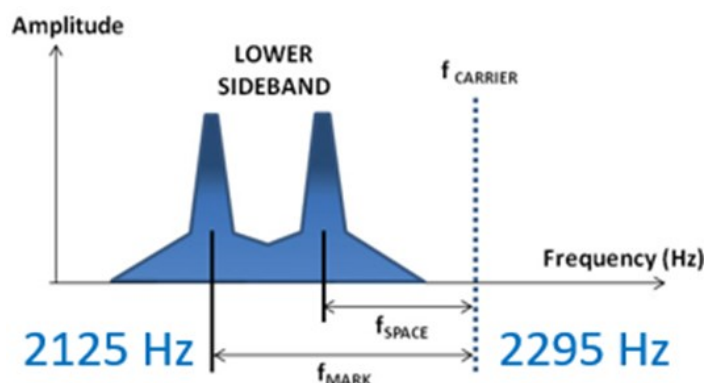


Image credit: <https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/wireless-modes-part-2>

So how do you accomplish the magical modulation and demodulation? Some modern rigs have RTTY encode/decode built-in, but you really want to use software and let the computer do the work. Decoding is done with a soundcard interface just like other digital modes. The software takes the digitized audio, performs a Fourier Transform, picks out those 2 frequencies, and decodes that 5-bit code into characters. Encoding can be done in 2 different ways. AFSK (audio frequency shift keying) uses the sound card to generate those 2 tones and modulate the rig audio similar to other digital sound card modes. FLDIGI does a great job of this, and it is very easy to set-up if you are already using WSJT or any of the various PSK programs. RTTY is just another of the dozens of modes in FLDIGI. The other approach is to use FSK (frequency shift keying) which essentially allows the radio to generate the tones without a soundcard generally by toggling the DTR and RTS "lines" of the virtual COM port. The software I use for RTTY is MMTTY and it has a module called EXTFSK which allows you to set this up. The ad-

vantage I've found for FSK is that it is inherently clean like CW. You don't have to worry about over-driving the soundcard and causing splatter. You can just run at full power and know that your signal is clean. Another advantage of using MMTTY is that it can be connected to N1MM+ for point and click contesting.

Macros are your friend. Contests are really easy using the macros in N1MM+. For search and pounce you'll only need a macro for your callsign and one for the exchange. The software will generate any serial numbers you might need in the exchange. For running you just need a macro for CQ, the exchange, and a TU QRZ. After you click the S&P station's callsign it will automatically populate the exchange. Clicking his exchange stuffs it in your log. Occasionally I work someone in a contest who is apparently using hunt and peck on their keyboard. You can certainly do that, but it is the hard way. I like to imagine them using one of the old teletype units (see figure).

Model 28 KSR Teletype machine

Image credit: <https://kb8ojh.net/station/teletype/>



Back to that JARTS RTTY contest, the exchange includes the age of the operator. I've done statistics on my log in the past and most of the ops are 70 or older, although I have worked some 40-something and even worked someone who was 26 in the last contest. I'm not sure who let the kids in ☺. There is no reason for RTTY to be an old man's mode, but I know a lot of ops have that nostalgia for the old equipment as I do which

Introduction to RTTY (continued)

might skew the demographics. If you haven't tried it, and you are under 70, give it a try. Heck, give it a try if you are more "seasoned" and haven't yet. I find it more relaxing than CW or phone as a contest mode and even enjoy running with it. It requires a little more attention and skill than FT8 and those 2 tones are just a little magical, and nostalgic.

RTTY DXing can be fun and certainly more challenging than FT8. Split is commonly used, and the same techniques used for finding the sweet spot in the pileup that you use for CW applies. An SDR with a waterfall is a big help here. As in any pileup, pay attention to operator instructions, listen for any pattern in the operating, and keep trying. I operated 17m RTTY as W1AW/4 during the W1AW Centennial a few years ago and had a blast working a split pileup. I can't imagine what it is like handling a DXpedition pileup.

Give the "diddle-deedles" a try. I hope to work you in the next contest. The WAE DX RTTY is the weekend of 9 Nov. which might be about when this newsletter comes out.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NADXC Christmas Dinner:
Tuesday, December 10th, 2024
6:30PM
Full Moon BBQ
1009 Memorial Pkwy NW



For Sale

Alpha 78 HF Amplifier

Excellent working condition. Full output on 160, 80, 40, 20, 17, 15 & 10 meters (Not recommended for use on 12 meters). Uses 3 each 8874 ceramic tubes. Original operating and tech manual included. In use at this time, come by shack for demo.

QTH is near Scottsboro, AL

Selling because I'm going all solid state.

Asking \$1700

Call or text Jerry, N4JR at 256-673-0748.

About the NADXC

2024 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice President	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Director	Mick Bell, N8AU

How to Join

Come to a club meeting or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum of Information Explosion at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Participants can also join the meeting virtually via [Zoom](https://zoom.us).

This edition of The LongPath published by:
Fred Kepner, K3FRK

Using a Tower to Raise a Tower

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

During a sunny and dry week in October I borrowed the HARC trailer mounted crank-up tower to raise my tower onto a prepared base. The base consists of a shortened Rohn 25G section with 3 Rohn base insulators sticking up about 3' above ground level. My intention is to load the tower on 80m with an appropriate matching section.



The HARC trailer-mounted crank-up tower attached to N4BCD's vehicle.



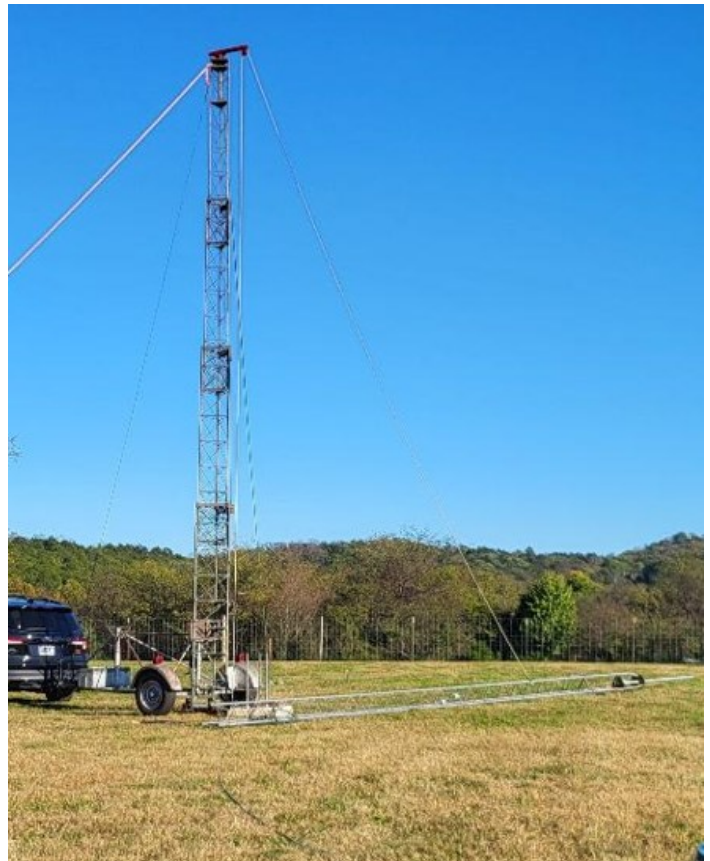
The tower to be raised was already assembled on the ground with the pre-wired rotor, 12' chrome-moly mast, and steel guy wires broken up with compression insulators to be non-resonant on any band. The height of the tower is 41' to the thrust bearing.

During HARC Field Day a crew of 10-13 people perform this operation. I wanted to be ready for when the crew arrived for the rais-

N4BCD's tower with insulators and cabling pre-installed.

ing so I positioned and configured the crank-up tower solo. It's a lot of work!

On Saturday, October 19 the work party convened at 10AM to raise the tower onto the base. I was concerned about alignment of the tower into the top of the base insulators. They have to be much more closely aligned compared to the re-bar base used for Field Day. With help from 2 HARC members, 2 Lincoln Co club members, and 3 relatives, we raised and attached the tower to the base and had the guys wires pre-tensioned in less than 2 hours. We celebrated with catered BBQ before everyone departed in time to enjoy their favorite college football games.



The HARC trailer-mounted tower greatly simplified raising, positioning, and affixing N4BCD's tower, shown on the ground as work was about to begin.

Using a Tower to Raise a Tower (continued)

The next task was to install a Davis weather station at the NWS recommended height of 10m (33') above ground. This was completed the following week and data is streaming to the Citizen Weather Observer Corps (CWOPS), Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System (MADIS), and Weather Underground. <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KTNMULBE1>



The Davis weather station installed at 33 ft AGL.

Next tasks before things turn cold & wet will be to rent a bucket truck to put two large antennas onto the mast. Thanks K8KI, N5DF, KO4JVB, K4TTU, my father in law and brother in law. And thanks XYL Julie KK4CKJ for operating her 4WD Ford F-250 as the winch vehicle.

One mishap occurred when returning the crank-up to its storage location. I improperly secured a holding chain and sudden braking caused the tower to extend and hit the back of my vehicle. The tower is undamaged but I'll have to live with the small dent and scratched paint.



The tower must be sufficiently chained when transporting to prevent sliding of the upper sections when braking.



Volunteers Needed for Meeting Presentations in 2025

Do you have a ham or DX topic that you enjoy and could share at one of our monthly meetings?

We are currently planning our 2025 schedule. If you are willing to share your passion with the club, either in person or over Zoom, please contact

Fred, K3FRK at
dxK3FRK@gmail.com.

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
5:45 PM Doors open / 6:30 PM meeting

Program: "Common Mode Current: What is It? Measure It. Mitigate It." by Dr. Barry Johnson, W4WB

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via [Zoom](#)

My QRP Experience in the 2024 CQWW SSB Contest

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

The largest Amateur Radio competition in the world occurred the weekend of October 25 and 26. This event typically has over 35,000 ham radio participants taking to the airwaves the last full weekend in October every year. This year was no different. Believe me, the CQWW SSB Contest was in full swing this year. The goal was to make as many contacts with as many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible. I hope our members were able to take advantage of this competition and make as many QSOs with hams that traveled to exotic places or live in exotic places as they could by making QSOs all over the world with new DXCC entities increasing their DXCC totals.

I operated 10m Single Operator, Single-Band QRP. That means I had to keep my output power level below 5 watts. I used my Cushcraft 4 Element Yagi atop of my 65 foot tower, a short tri-bander at 45 feet, and a 5-bander Yagi at 55 feet. All antennas were pointed in different directions and all connected via a switchbox making switching antennas fast and easy.

Each QSO typically required me to give my callsign about seven times or more in order for the patient hams on the other side to log our QSO. The contest exchange hardly ever required repeating as I shouted “59 - 04” [Five nine, oh four]. I tried running, but never had a good enough signal in all of the heterodyne for other ham operators to hear my weak signal, so I search and pounced for most of the contest. I constantly monitored my wattmeter to ensure I did not violate the rules by exceeding the 5 watts requirement.

One operator in England seemed to be glad to work me as I told him I was QRP. He said my signal was a true 5 by 5, while he was 59 plus

20 dB on my transceiver. Of course, for the contest exchange, he gave me a 59. My strategy was to call the stations that were 20 dB over S9 and believe me, there were plenty stations to work on the 10m band. I walked up the band from 28.300 MHz to 29.100MHz. Wow, that’s a lot of bandwidth.

Fortunately, I was able to put in 28 hours, butt-in-the-seat. I managed 460 OSOs. I was able to operate on Saturday and part of Sunday afternoon. One comment I received from a ham in the Tennessee Contest Group (TCG) was “That is an impressive accomplishment – you have incredible intestinal fortitude.” Well, my voice was almost gone and raspy Sunday evening. I had lots of fun, sometimes breaking a small pileup with 5 watts when the other stations were extremely strong. Apparently, propagation favored me many times as I called busting the pileup.

I noticed online at 3830scores.com that I ranked second in the SOSB 10m QRP category. The current leader is FY5FY who has better propagation to Europe most of the time on any given day than we in Southern Tennessee/Northern Alabama. Even though I did not make QSOs with every station I called, I still found this competition a true challenging event. I was able to work many Asian, European, South American, and a few African stations. I am looking forward to seeing the final results to actually see how I placed. I have wondered if I will do it again in the future. Probably so. I like competition and challenges. Operating QRP is always a challenge no matter how one looks at it. Being at the peak of Cycle 25, this contest is one that I will always remember since the 10m band was wide open with strong signals a few hours past our sunset.

Great DX Podcast


By Rob Suggs, NN4NT

I listen to several ham podcasts fairly faithfully including Ham Radio Workbench <https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/> and QSO Today <https://www.qsotoday.com/> but one of the most useful for DXers is The DX Mentor <https://www.youtube.com/@thedxmentor>. You can use those links or just search for the name in your favorite podcast player. I use YouTube Music but there are numerous options. You can generally subscribe so the podcasts automatically download to your mobile device if you like.

The DX Mentor is hosted by Bill Salyers AJ8B who is very active in the Southwest Ohio DX Association which hosts the Hamvention DX Dinner. His sidekick is Joe Pater W8GEX who is a very experienced DXpeditioner with over 60 trips. Roughly weekly Bill and Joe interview DXpeditioners who are preparing to leave for or recently re-

turned from their adventure. They give great insights into the planning and execution that goes into everything from suitcase to tent and generator DXpeditions. The stories of the hardships and adversity many have to overcome make me really appreciate what those guys do and make me a lot more patient in the pileups. Recent episodes in their catalog include 9M1Z, 3D2Y, S9Z, YJOVV, C21MM, and T32VU. They also have episodes on propagation, digital modes, operating techniques, and even 3D printing. Most of their episodes are also available as YouTube videos which is especially useful for the more visual topics. I like to listen to the audio while driving but watch some when I can.

Give a listen and I expect you'll learn something. I certainly have.



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EPISODE 522 - CATHY GOODRICH - W4CNR

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Cathy Goodrich, W4CNR, is an enthusiastic contesting and dedicated DX chaser. Known for her meticulous scheduling, Cathy ensures she dedicates time each day to amateur radio, honing her operating techniques and CW rag chewing skills. In her retirement, Cathy continues to make an impact as a Red Cross Coordinator in Nashville, TN, applying strategic insights gained from her extensive experience as a project manager in the pharmaceutical industry. In our conversation, we delve into how amateur radio operators can engage in and contribute their expertise to Red Cross operations, as well as improving on the air operating skills. W4CNR is my QSO Today.

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K4QGO

10/26/2024

EPISODE 521 - WALT HUDSON - K4QGO

0 Comments



Walt Hudson, K4QGO, has always lived by and had a love of the sea, pursuing a career in ship building, beginning in Portsmouth, Virginia. While he always had an interest in radio, including Citizens band radio, it wasn't until just a few years ago that Walt became a ham radio operator. Since he is always near the shore, operating portable QRP SSB from the water's edge and making DX contacts is what excites him. K4QGO loves to experiment with vertical antennas on the beach to fine tune his technical and operating skills. K4QGO is my QSO Today.

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Page 9

The LongPath

November 2024

Volume 48 Issue 11

Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE DX Contest (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Nov. 8, 0000Z to Nov. 10, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number (see rules for QTC)

See page 78, Nov. QST and www.darc.de



All Austria 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Nov. 16, 1600Z to Nov. 16, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial Nr. (OEs send district)

See: page 78, Nov. QST and www.oevsv.at/



REF 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 Meters

Nov. 16, 1700Z to Nov. 16, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, Serial, Department code

See: Page 78, Nov. QST and <https://concours.r-e-f.org>



ARRL EME Contest, (CW/SSB/DIG), 50 to 1295 MHz.

Nov. 16, 0000Z to Nov. 17, 2359Z

Exchange: 4 Char. grid square

See: Page 78, Nov. QST and www.arrl.org/eme-contest



CQ Worldwide CW, (CW), 160-10 meters

Nov. 23, 0000Z to Nov. 24, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ zone

See page 78, Nov. QST and <https://cqww.com/rules.htm>



ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 6, 2200Z to Dec. 8, 1559Z

Exchange: RST plus Section

See: www.arrl.org/160-meter



OTHERS:

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Dec. 14, 0000Z to Dec. 15, 2359Z

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. See also: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>



Japan Int'l DX Contest, (SSB), 160-10 meters

Nov. 9, 0700Z to Nov. 10, 1300Z (48 hours)

Exchange: RS plus CQ zone; JAs send prefecture

See page 78, Nov. QST and www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html



OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 160-10 meters

Nov. 9, 1200Z to Nov. 10, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number or OK/OM district

See page 78, Nov. QST and www.okomdx.crk.cz

DARC FT4 Contest, (FT4), 80 Meters

Nov. 12, 1900Z to Nov. 12 2000Z

Exchange: RST, grid square

See page 78, Nov. QST and www.darc.de



LZ DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 16, 1200Z to Nov. 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone or LZ district

See page 78, Nov. QST and <https://lzdxbfra.bg/rulesen.html>



DXpeditions in November 2024

Reprinted with permission of Bill Feidt, NG3K



Start	End	DXCC	Callsign	QSL	Other info
2024 Oct31	2024 Nov11	Burkina Faso	XT2MD	IK2VUC	By 14 ops fm Ouagadougou; 80-10m, incl 60m, w/ focus on low bands and WARC
2024 Oct31	2024 Nov30	Gabon	TR8CR	F6AJA (B/d)	By F8EN; 30-10m; QSOs will be uploaded to https://lesnouvellesdx.fr/voirlogs.php ; operation to continue for at least 3 months
2024 Nov01	2024 Nov15	Cocos Keeling	VK9CV	OK6DJ	By OM5ZW OM4AYL OK6DJ OK2ZA OM3PC OM4MM OM4MW VK5GR OM5RW; 160-10m; SSB FT9 RTTY QO-100
2024 Nov02	2024 Nov22	St Helena	ZD7	LoTW	By JM1GDA as ZD7G and JF3SFU as ZD7SFU; 160-10; mainly FT8, some SSB and slow CW
2024 Nov02	2024 Nov09	Maldives	8Q7TR	OE1TRI	By OE1TRI fm Kagi I; HF; SSB FT8; holiday style operation
2024 Nov03	2024 Nov09	Honduras	HR9	LoTW	By K6VHF as K6VHF/HR9 fm Roatan I; 80-6m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; 100w; QSL via K6VHF (B/d)
2024 Nov05	2024 Nov12	Cayman Is	ZF2KM	LoTW	By W9KM fm Grand Cayman I; HF; CW + digital
2024 Nov06	2024 Nov13	Guam	KH2	LoTW	By N2OEF as KH2/N2OEF; SSB, perhaps digital; 10,50w; QSL via N2OEF w/ SASE
2024 Nov06	2024 Nov16	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2024 Nov07	2024 Nov18	Reunion	FR	LoTW	By F5SGI as FR/F5SGI; 40-10m; CW; automatic QSL via bureau
2024 Nov07	2024 Nov24	South Cook Is	E51SGC	LoTW	By LZ1GC LZ5QZ fm Rarotonga I (IOTA OC-013); 160-6m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY; 3 stations; QSL via E51SGC OQRS or LZ1GC (B/d)
2024 Nov08	2024 Dec12	Fiji	3D2TP	PA3CBH	By PA3CBH fm Suva; HF; SSB CW; spare time operation
2024 Nov11	2024 Nov16	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By N5LCP as FO/N5LCP fm Bora Bora I (IOTA OC-067); 20 15m; SSB FT8; QSL via N5LCP
2024 Nov11	2024 Nov20	Sao Tome & Principe	S9Z	LoTW	By N4XP 5B4AQN CT1BOL CT1DVS CT1EEB CT1END HI8RD I8NHJ KH7U KJ7KOJ K0IR K3VN N2WB N6MZ WB4JTT W7YED; 160-6m; SSB CW + digital, + 432 EME; hex beams; tall verticals; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Nov14	2024 Nov20	Palau	T8	LoTW	By JH1OLB as T88DT and JH1FFW as T88RC; HF; SSB FT8
2024 Nov15	2024 Nov23	French Guiana	FY	LoTW	By WE9G as FY/WE9G fm Matoury; 80-6m, incl 60m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS or WE9G (B/d)
2024 Nov15	2024 Nov25	Falkland Is	VP8G	LoTW	By PG5M; 40-6m; mainly CW FT8; QSL via M0OXO
2024 Nov15	2024 Dec04	Rotuma	3D2Y	M0OXO	By W6IZT K4NHW M0SSDV KD9LSV LY7J W2FQ; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; 5 stations; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov16	2024 Nov29	Wallis & Futuna	FW7AA	LoTW	By W7YAQ K7AR fm Wallis I; 160-6m; 2 stns; QSL via W7YAQ; QRV for CQWW DX CW



DXpeditions in November 2024 (continued)

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2024 Nov19	2024 Nov26	Chatham Is	ZL7YL	LoTW	By ZL4YL; HF; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Nov19	2024 Nov28	Galapagos	HD8CW	M0OXO	By K2IN and HC2AP; HF; CW SSB FT8
2024 Nov19	2024 Nov29	St Martin	FS	LoTW	By KC9EE as FS/KC9EE fm Orient Village; HFbernie@dailydx.com
2024 Nov25	2024 Nov29	Gambia	C5T	LoTW	By EA3NT EI5GM EI9FBB MM0NDX MM0OKG; HF, incl 60m; possibly also using C5I fm IOTA AF-060
2024 Nov25	2024 Dec06	Tonga	A35GC	LoTW	By LZ1GC LZ5QZ fm IOTA OC-049; 160-6m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY; 3 stations; QSL via E51SGC OQRS or LZ1GC (B/d)
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec02	Fiji	3D2NB	LoTW	By W7Yaq K7AR; 160-6m; QSL via W7Yaq; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec13	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	By K9EL K9NU W9MR W9AP; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4 RTTY; QSL via W9ILY (B/d), direct w/ 2.5 USD
2024 Dec02	2024 Dec07	India	AU2K	Club Log OQRS	By VE3LYC VU2RS VU3WEW VU3DXA fm Kanika I (IOTA AS-179); 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; full QSL details
2024 Dec08	2024 Dec18	Br Virgin Is	VP2VMM	LoTW	By K2KW AG9A KD4D K5PI; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest; QSL via KU9C



Club Business and Announcements

Financial Report by Bob DePierre, K8KI

As we finish out our financial plan for 2024, I must say we had a pretty good time, although we lost three valued members, and I have to seriously reflect on their loss: Sandy Bell/KBODLS, Mike Maples/K4ADK, and Melanie Winter/N4HIX.

In August, we sold 101 tickets for the DX Banquet. We had some pretty big expenses, but depending on how you look at it, you could say we made \$885 on the venture. The food was great, and we attracted some great out-of-town guests.

We have now funded 7 DXpeditions (a new record, I think): Clipper-ton \$250, E Kiribati/T32EU \$100, Bouvet/3Y0K \$200, Rotuma/3D2Z \$300, Jarvis Is/N5J \$300, Burkina Faso/XP2MD \$150, and Marshall Is/V7XZ \$150. I've worked all the

DXpeditions that have gone out so far. XP2MD just came on the air as I write this. But Bouvet, a very hard place to get to, has been delayed by over a year - maybe until next Nov.

We had a great club picnic out at Monte Sano a couple of weeks ago. It attracted over 35 members. It was located at a very nice pavilion I hadn't seen before. Our final meeting of the year will be our yearly Christmas Party at Full Moon BBQ's party room, at our normal meeting time.

And finally, many of you have probably no-

2024 NADXC Financial Status		10/31/24	End October
Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	Month Totals
Year Start	9236	9,236	11135.53
Dues In	1150	1,059	20
Recurring Exp	-1131	-760	
recurring expenses		-57	-57
repeater elect		-116	-116
web hosting/domain service		-20	-17
repeater maintenance		0	
to HARC for Zoom		-50	-100
use of museum		-400	-400
Miscellaneous		-475	
DX Plaque		-70	-70
Bank checks			
Other Transactions	-490	208	
Donations/equipment to sell		500	2551
Dxpeditons		-700	-1450
Picnic		-120	-341
ARRL Bricks			-552
DX Banquet	-170	885	
Huntsville Hamfest Donation			500
venue		-700	-700
food		-2350	-2378
speaker+room+travel		-450	-369
ticket sales		3650	4144
raffle		400	413
grand prize		-400	-382
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses		-200	-237
insurance		-120	-106
Year End Bank Balance	8,595	10,628.53	10,628.53
EOY Delta	-641	1,392.53	

Financial Report (cont.)

ticed that our bank account has grown, most notably due to SK member donations. We need a little over \$4,000 yearly to operate our many activities, and our board of directors is hesitant waste resources or operate in the red during any year. So, I am proposing investing in a CD at our bank (Regions Bank). The best rates now are for 3-month investments, and are currently at 4.5%. At our next meeting, I'll propose buying a \$5,000 CD from them. If that rate continues, we'll make \$225 in interest over the year. This is not an expense, but rather a fully insured investment. I hate "lazy money."

October 2024 Meeting Minutes by Bob DePierre, K8KI

The meeting opened at 6:30 with Bruce/AC4G presiding.

- Bruce noted there are 62 members now paid for this year.
- We will buy an ARRL memorial brick for Mike Maples/K4ADK, now SK.
- Wayne Reed/W4TTZ, is also SK. He had been a member for many years, but has been unable to attend meetings for quite a while.
- Fred had done a good job on the web page by listing the sponsors of prizes at our DX banquet.
- Fred/K3FRK, our vice president, is now an ARRL DXCC card checker, taking the place of K4ADK.
- Johnny Winter/KR4F has fallen several times recently and had sustained some injuries. He is now in the hospital with an infected leg and collapsed lung. He isn't home yet.
- The 2025 election committee made their rec-

ommendations. Voting for each position was unanimous. They are:

- Bruce Smith/AC4G, President
 - Fred Kepner/K3FRK, Vice President
 - Bob DePierre/K8KI, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Mick Bell/N8AU, Director
 - Chuck Lewis/N4NM, Director
- The annual picnic will be on Sunday, Oct 13 at Monte Sano Park in the John Scoble Memorial Pavilion. The club will buy chicken. A list for individual dishes was circulated. The pavilion cost \$228 to rent for the day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15.



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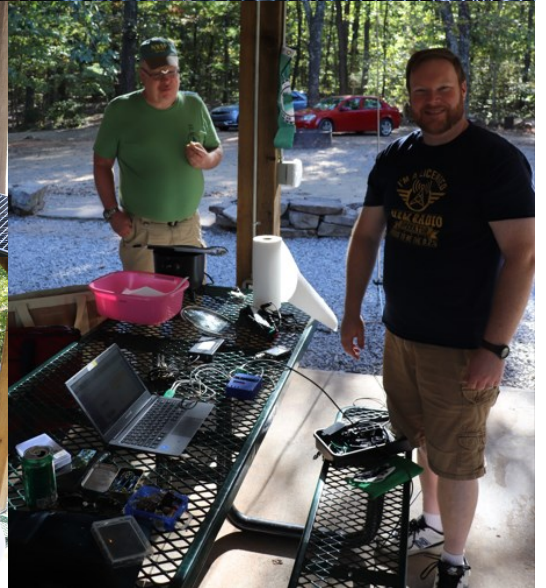
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2024 Club Picnic





2024 Club Awards

In June, President Bruce Smith, AC4G announced a revamp of the club's annual recognition awards. In recent years, the club has voted only on the DXer of the Year award, which has been given to the club member who the membership felt best served the club or the DX community during that year. For 2024, the club membership will award four different awards. The DXer of the Year, Best LongPath Article, and Best Club Program awards will be selected by secret ballot. The President's Award recipient will be selected by the President. The awardees will be selected at the November meeting and announced at the December Holiday Dinner, so start thinking about who you will nominate. A list of LongPath articles is included on the next page.

Presentation of the Year Nominations

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 9, 2024	Steve Werner, AG4W	TJ9MD Cameroon Dxpedition
February 13, 2024	Zach Rozar, K4ZSR	Becoming the (mini) DX: Operating QRP Portable in Europe
March 12, 2024	Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W	CQ DX Marathon Overview
April 9, 2024	Krish Kanakasapathi, W4VKU	VU4A and VU7N DXpeditons
May 14, 2024	Bruce Smith, AC4G	Six Meters -You Must Be Present to Win
June 11, 2024	Rob Suggs, NN5NT	NN4SA Club and Activities Overview
July 9, 2024	Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA	W8S Swains Island DXpedition
August 13, 2024	Mike Crownover, AD5A	CB0ZA Juan Fernandez Is Dxpedition
August 17, 2024 (NADXC Banquet)	Gene Spinelli, K5GS	TX5S Clipperton Island DXpedition
September 10, 2024	Bob DePierre, K8KI	Who Invented the Sine Wave?
November 12, 2024	Barry Johnson, W4WB	Common Mode Current: What is It? Measure It. Mitigate It.



LongPath Article of the Year Nominations

<u>Month</u>	<u>Article Title</u>	<u>Author Name</u>	<u>Call</u>
DECEMBER (2023)	Ham Station - Chapter 2	Mark Brown	N4BCD
	A Quick Comparison of Amateur Radio Digital Modes: FT8 versus RTTY	Bruce Smith	AC4G
JANUARY (2024)	Success with Two Difficult DXCC Countries (VU4A & VU7N)	Bruce Smith	AC4G
FEBRUARY	Freeze Fest	Steve Werner	AG4W
	Six Meter QSOs - You Must Be Present to Win	Bruce Smith	AC4G
MARCH	Calibrate Bird Model 43 Wattmeter Elements	John Stensby	N5DF
	Seeing and Being Seen	Mark Brown	N4BCD
	Satellite Grid Squares	Steve Werner	AG4W
	Strong Winds Broke My Ham IV Rotor	Bruce Smith	AC4G
APRIL	None		
MAY	MFJ Impact	Steve Werner	AG4W
	MFJ is Going Out of Business - Get Manuals Downloaded...	Barry Johnson	W4WB
	Sunrise, Sunset, Greyline, and Enhanced Low Band Signals	Bruce Smith	AC4G
JUNE	Dayton 2024	Steve Werner	AG4W
	DX Cluster Spotting Etiquette	Bruce Smith	AC4G
JULY	None		
AUGUST	From Standard FT8 to SuperFox FT8 Digital Mode	Bruce Smith	AC4G
SEPTEMBER	ARRL President Pep Talk @ 2024 NADXC Banquet	Bruce Smith	AC4G
OCTOBER	A Simple RF Power Sensor	John Stensby	N5DF
	A PSK Reporter Anomaly	Fred Kepner	K3FRK
NOVEMBER	Is It Shockley or Schottky?	John Stensby	N5DF
	Phasing Two Receive Antennas	Steve Werner	AG4W
	Introduction to RTTY	Rob Suggs	NN4NT
	Using a Tower to Raise a Tower	Mark Brown	N4BCD
	My QRP Experience in the 2024 CQWW SSB Contest	Bruce Smith	AC4G
	Great DX Podcast	Rob Suggs	NN4NT

North Alabama DX Club (NADXC)

“Club Fact Sheet”

Who We Are: NADXC is a group of active radio amateurs with a deep compassion for working DX, contesting, and other aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club. NADXC members are active in all facets of DX and contesting. The NADXC also donates funding for various DXpeditions all over the world. The NADXC sponsors a DX Banquet in mid-August of every year in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. NADXC members moderate various programs at club meetings and during the Huntsville Hamfest, covering amateur radio technical and operating topics for all to learn and enjoy. The NADXC sponsors a prestigious award at the end of year for the most deserving DXer of the Year from the NADXC club.

DX Funding Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the NADXC website and in the “Longpath” newsletter.

Club History: The NADXC was organized in December 1966 by a group of 12 charter members. The original constitution was adopted and signed on December 19, 1966. The first chairman was Dan Whitsett, W4BRE (SK). In the early-1970's, the NADXC was custodian of the W4, K4 QSL Bureau which became such a huge undertaking that it eventually was passed to other larger clubs. In January of 1977, the club bought a VHF repeater for sharing DX spots and hosting a weekly net on Wednesday nights. The repeater was located on Redstone Arsenal, Weeden Mountain using the frequencies of 147.91/147.31 MHz on two meters. Today, the repeater has been relocated and utilizes the frequencies of 147.90/147.30 MHz, with a callsign of W4QB. The weekly net has been discontinued. In 1980, the club started the monthly newsletter known as the “Longpath” which currently continues to be produced every month.

While organized as a DX club, NADXC members are active in all aspects of the hobby. We trust that this information will be of interest to all and hope all hams have a long and pleasant association with the NADXC.

Requirements for Membership: The NADXC welcomes all hams radio operators who have an interest in DXing. It does not matter whether you are a new ham, a seasoned ham operator, an old-timer to DXing, or a ham who has just been hit with the DX bug; everyone is welcome! See the club website: www.nadxc.org. Dues are paid in January of every year.

Meetings: The NADXC club meets the second Tuesday night of every month, with the current location at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) located at 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama and virtually via Zoom. Some members gather early to eat their dinner, socialize, discuss DX worked, and then we have a short business meeting starting at 6:30 P.M. CT. followed by an exciting, interesting program to help, entertain, and teach members about DX and amateur radio in general.

Club Officers: There are four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and three elected directors on the NADXC Board of Directors. The current roster of club officers and directors can be seen on the NADXC web site or in the “Longpath” newsletter, which is uploaded each month to the club website.

Website: The NADXC club maintains a website at www.nadxc.org. This site provides club information and activities throughout the year about a variety of subjects related to the club, DX, and amateur radio.